

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for providing support and care to persons considering or undergoing a medical procedure, comprising:

means for a third party provider to receive, process, and provide information regarding ~~said~~between at least one persons to and from said persons and at least one medical practitioners, wherein said information includes information necessary for a third party lender to finance at least one medical procedure for said person and whereby a portion of a fee charged by said medical practitioner for said medical procedure is paid by said medical practitioner to said third party provider in exchange for said third party bringing together said person and said medical provider for said medical procedure which is financed by said third party lender; and,

means for said third party provider to provide information and positive reinforcement to said persons regarding said medical procedure being considered or undergone;

means for said third party provider to schedule and coordinate medical consultations and said medical procedure between said persons and said medical practitioners; and

means for said third party provider to receive, process, and deliver care orders and medicaments from said medical practitioners to said persons.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising means for said third party provider to monitor said person's adherence to said medical practitioner's care orders, medical consultation and medical procedure schedules and medicament prescriptions.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

~~means for said third party provider to receive, transmit, and process said persons' financial/credit information to a lender for medical procedure financing~~ said third party provider to schedule said medical procedure between said person and said medical practitioner; and

means for said third party provider to receive, process, and deliver care orders and medicaments from said medical practitioner to said person.

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4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising means for said third party provider to request and obtain said person's insurer or other third party payor authorization for payment of said medical consultations and procedures.
5. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising means for processing data regarding sales of medicaments and completion of financing transactions for said medical procedure by said medical practitioner and processing of payments due to said medical practitioner based on said sales of medicaments and financed procedures.
6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said means for said third party provider to receive, process, and provide information regarding said persons further comprises a network of computer systems.
7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said means for said third party provider to receive, process, and provide information regarding said persons further comprises a voice telephony system permitting communication between said medical practitioner and said patient.
8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said means for said third party provider to receive, process, and provide information regarding said persons further comprises a facsimile communications system permitting communication between said medical practitioner and said patient.
9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said means for said third party provider to receive, process, and provide information regarding said persons to and from said persons and said medical practitioner further comprises a structured query protocol designed to allow said medical practitioner to assess said person's physical and psychological/psychiatric characteristics in order to identify said person's needs for medical care.
10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said means for said third party provider to receive, process, and provide information regarding said persons to

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and from said persons and said medical practitioner further comprises a structured query protocol designed to allow said medical practitioner to assess said person's physical and psychological/psychiatric characteristics in order to identify said person's needs for information regarding said medical procedure.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said means for said third party provider to receive, process, and provide information regarding said persons to and from said persons and said medical practitioner further comprises a structured query protocol designed to allow said medical practitioner to assess said person's physical and psychological/psychiatric characteristics in order to identify said person's needs for positive reinforcement.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said means ~~for~~ for said third party provider to provide information and positive reinforcement to said persons regarding said medical procedure being considered or undergone comprises a website accessible via a network of computer systems connected by common protocols, said website having a searchable database containing information regarding said medical procedure being considered, and wherein information is provided without obligation or requiring persons using the system to disclose their identities or other personal information, thereby fostering a sense of comfort and trust in the person considering undergoing said medical procedure.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein said information provided through said website comprises ~~accounts~~ a written narrative of the personal experiences of other persons who have undergone the medical procedure under consideration.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, further comprising means for accessing a live attendant that can provide additional information, assist with selection of a medical practitioner and coordinate scheduling of an initial consultation with the selected medical practitioner upon request by said persons using the system.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said means ~~for~~ for said third party provider to provide information and positive reinforcement to said persons

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regarding said medical procedure being considered or undergone further comprises kits assembled and delivered to said persons containing said information.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein said kits include information regarding said medical practitioner who will perform said medical procedure.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein said kits include information regarding self-care measures for said person to undertake.

18. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein said kits include medicaments to be used by said person.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for a third party provider to provide pre and post procedure support and care to persons considering or undergoing medical procedures, comprising:

- a system representative terminal for said third party provider to receive, process, and provide information ~~regarding said persons to and from said~~ between at least one persons and at least one medical practitioner, the system representative terminal having a central processing unit,

- a main processing unit communicating with said central processing unit of said system representative terminal,

- a communications server interconnected to said main processing unit,

- a modem interconnected to said communications server,

- a medical practitioner terminal for said medical practitioner to receive, process, and provide information regarding said persons to and from said third party provider, the medical practitioner terminal having a central processing unit, and

- a modem interconnected to said medical practitioner terminal's central processing unit and communicating with said modem interconnected to said system representative terminal's central processing unit to allow for information transfer between said medical practitioner terminal and said system representative terminal, wherein said information includes information necessary for a third party lender to finance at least one medical procedure for said person and whereby a portion of a fee charged by said medical practitioner for said medical procedure is paid by said medical

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practitioner to said third party provider in exchange for said third party bringing together said person and said medical provider for said medical procedure which is financed by said third party lender.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising
a display device interconnected to said central processing unit of said system representative terminal,
a printer interconnected to said central processing unit of said system representative terminal,
a display device interconnected to said central processing unit of said medical practitioner terminal and
a printer interconnected to said central processing unit of said medical practitioner terminal.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, further comprising a web server interconnected to said communications server to provide for communications between said system representative terminal, said medical practitioner terminal and said patient/patient prospects person through the Internet.

22. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising one or more third party payor terminals, each having a central processing unit with a modem interconnected thereto to provide for communications between said system representative terminal, said medical practitioner terminal and said third party payor terminals.

23. (Currently Amended) A method executing on a web server for a third party provider to provide pre and post procedure support and care to persons considering or undergoing medical procedures, the method for the said third party provider comprising the step~~third party provider~~:

receiving, processing and providing information ~~regarding said persons to and from said~~ between at least one persons and at least one medical practitioner, wherein said information includes information necessary for a third party lender to finance at least one medical procedure for said person and whereby a portion of a fee charged by said medical practitioner for said medical procedure is paid by said medical practitioner

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to said third party provider in exchange for said third party bringing together said person and said medical provider for said medical procedure which is financed by said third party lender,

storing the received, processed and provided information regarding said persons in a database maintained on a system representative terminal,

providing information and positive reinforcement to said persons regarding the procedure being considered or undergone,

scheduling and coordinating medical appointments and procedures between said persons-prospects and said medical practitioners,

receiving, processing and delivering care orders and medicaments from said medical practitioners to said persons, and

monitoring said person's adherence to medical practitioner's care orders, appointment and procedure schedules and medicament prescriptions.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said step of providing information and positive reinforcement to said persons regarding the procedure being considered or undergone comprises providing information via a searchable database accessible through an Internet website without obligation or requiring said persons to disclose their identities or other personal information, thereby fostering a sense of comfort and trust in said persons.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein said step of providing information and positive reinforcement to said persons regarding the procedure being considered or undergone further comprises providing a written narrative information regarding the ~~of~~ personal experiences of other persons who have undergone the medical procedure under consideration.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 wherein said step of providing information and positive reinforcement to said persons regarding the procedure being considered or undergone further comprises providing access to a live attendant that can provide additional information, assist with selection of a medical practitioner and coordinate scheduling of an initial consultation with the selected medical practitioner upon request by said persons.

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27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein said step of providing information and positive reinforcement to said persons regarding the procedure being considered or undergone further comprises providing pre and post procedure information and medicament kits assembled based on the particular needs and characteristics of said patient person.

28.-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) A method executing on a web server for a third party provider to deliver pre and post procedure support and care to patients undergoing medical procedures, the method of the third party provider comprising the steps of ~~third party provider~~:

obtaining patient medical, demographic, psychological and financial/credit information prior to the patient's undergoing at least one said medical procedure,

storing patient medical, demographic, psychological and financial/credit information in a database maintained on a system representative terminal,

assessing said information to determine patient needs for information, support and financing for said medical procedure,

providing information regarding the procedure to be undergone, providing pre and post medical procedure medicaments and self-care orders,

providing positive reinforcement to said patient regarding said medical procedure, and

coordinating scheduling of medical consultations and said medical procedure between medical practitioners and said patient, wherein said information includes information necessary for a third party lender to finance said medical procedure for said person and whereby a portion of a fee charged by said medical practitioner for said medical procedure is paid by said medical practitioner to said third party provider in exchange for said third party bringing together said person and said medical provider for said medical procedure which is financed by said third party lender.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33 further comprising the steps of obtaining patient financial information prior to the patient's undergoing said medical procedure and

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assessing said information to determine patient needs for financing for said medical procedure.

35.-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) A system for improving medical procedure outcomes, comprising:

means for a third party provider to receive, process and deliver care orders and medicament prescriptions from medical practitioners to patients,

means for said third party provider to receive, process and deliver medical status information from patients to medical practitioners, wherein said information includes information necessary for a third party lender to finance said medical procedure for said person and whereby a portion of a fee charged by said medical practitioner for said medical procedure is paid by said medical practitioner to said third party provider in exchange for said third party bringing together said person and said medical provider for said medical procedure which is financed by said third party lender, and

means for said third party provider to schedule and coordinate post-operative medical appointments between patients and medical practitioners and monitoring patient adherence to medical practitioners' care orders and medicament prescriptions.

38. (Currently Amended) A system for delivering pre and post operative support and care to patients and processing and managing information regarding patients and sales of products and services made to patients, comprising:

means for a third party provider to receive and process personal, medical and financial/credit data pertaining to said patient,

means for the third party provider to electronically transmit said patient's personal and medical data to and from medical practitioners, and for electronically transmitting said patient financial/credit data to a third party lender for medical procedure financing application processing, whereby a portion of a fee charged by said medical practitioner for said medical procedure is paid by said medical practitioner to said third party provider in exchange for said third party bringing together said person and said medical provider for said medical procedure which is financed by said third party lender,

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means for the third party provider to schedule and coordinate medical consultation appointments and medical procedures between said patients and said medical practitioners, and for coordinating said medical practitioners' receipt of payment for said medical consultations and medical procedures through said third party lender upon patient credit and financing approval,

means for the third party provider to receive, process, and deliver pre and post medical procedure patient prescriptions for medicaments, procedure information and patient care orders from said medical practitioners to said patients, and

means for said third party provider to process data regarding sales of medicaments and completion of medical procedure financing transactions attributable to each said medical practitioner, and calculation of payments due to each said medical practitioner based on said sales and financings.

39. - 41. (Cancelled)

42. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein said step of providing information and positive reinforcement to said persons further comprises providing means for delivery of information about said medical procedures to customer bases of healthcare organizations and healthcare insurance companies and providing means for said customer bases to request additional information.

43.-44. (Cancelled)